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INFO AMEMBASSY BISSAU  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY BANJUL  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 DAKAR 002654

PARIS FOR MORAN  
REYKJAVIK FOR WAGNER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/15/06  
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SUBJECT: CONTINUING DISQUIET IN THE TIDIANE ISLAMIC  
BROTHERHOOD

REF: REFS: A) 95 DAKAR 10469  
B) DAKAR 194

¶1. CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT BY:  
AMBASSADOR, AMEMBASSY DAKAR. REASON: 1.5 (B)

¶2. BEGIN SUMMARY: A PROMINENT LAWYER FAMILIAR WITH  
THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE TIDIANE ISLAMIC  
BROTHERHOOD SAYS THAT IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE  
JANUARY ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF ABDUL AZIZ SY, JR.,  
THE RIVALRY TO SUCCEED THE AGING KHALIFE GENERAL HAS  
BECOME MORE PRECARIOUS. THE POLICE INVESTIGATION  
INTO THE AFFAIR WILL PRODUCE NOTHING LINKING HIS  
CLIENT, CHEIKH TIDIANE SY, TO THE ASSASSINATION  
ATTEMPT, OUR CONTACT PREDICTS. THE OPEN RIVALRY  
BETWEEN CHEIKH TIDIANE SY AND THE OTHER MAIN  
CONTENDER, ABDUL AZIZ SY, JR., WILL REMAIN A SERIOUS  
THREAT TO PEACE WITHIN THIS INFLUENTIAL RELIGIOUS  
GROUP. PRESIDENT DIOUF IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE  
POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENT CONFRONTATION. END SUMMARY.

¶3. DURING AN APRIL 3 LUNCHEON MEETING WITH DCM,  
MADICKE NIANG, A PROMINENT SENEGALESE LAWYER AND A  
PERSON FAMILIAR WITH THE INNER WORKINGS OF SENEGAL'S  
RELIGIOUS BROTHERHOODS, SAID THE STRUGGLE FOR  
SUCCESSION TO HEAD THE POWERFUL TIDIANE RELIGIOUS  
BROTHERHOOD (REF A) REMAINED TENSE AND THAT THE  
JANUARY ATTEMPT IN THE LIFE OF ABDUL AZIZ SY, JR.  
(REF. B) HAD ONLY EXACERBATED THE SITUATION. NIANG  
DISMISSED ANOTHER OF THE KHALIFE GENERAL'S NEPHEWS,  
MANSOUR SY, AS A SERIOUS CONTENDER, SAYING THE  
PRINCIPAL RIVALS TO HEAD THE TIDIANE BROTHERHOOD  
AFTER THE DEATH OF THE AGING AND FRAIL KHALIFE  
GENERAL WERE ABDUL AZIZ SY, JR., THE KHALIFE  
GENERAL'S SPOKESMAN, AND HIS BROTHER CHEIKH TIDIANE  
SY, THE SPIRITUAL GUIDE OF THE BREAKAWAY  
MOUSTARCHIDINE FACTION. NIANG SAID HE PROVIDED THE  
LATTER WITH LEGAL COUNSEL. (NOTE: MINISTER OF  
STATE ABDULAYE WADE AND THE KHALIFE GENERAL OF THE  
MOURIDE BROTHERHOOD ARE ALSO NIANG'S CLIENTS.)

¶4. THE RIVALRY REPRESENTED A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE  
STABILITY OF THE COUNTRY, NIANG SAID, IN THAT THE  
CONTENDERS FOR POWER COULD EASILY LOOSE CONTROL OF  
THEIR MANY DEVOTED AND SOMETIMES OVERLY ZEALOUS  
FOLLOWERS. INDEED, THE PERPETRATOR OF THE BOMBING  
ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF ABDUL AZIZ, JR. WAS A  
FANATICAL FOLLOWER OF CHEIKH TIDIANE SY AND WAS  
SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCIDENT, NIANG  
ASSERTED. WHILE THE POLICE CONTINUED THEIR  
INVESTIGATION INTO THE AFFAIR, THE INTENDED VICTIM'S  
ACCUSATION NOT WITHSTANDING, HE PREDICTED THAT THE  
POLICE WOULD TURN UP NO EVIDENCE OF A PLOT LINKING  
CHEIKH TIDIANE SY, OR ANYONE CLOSE TO HIM, TO THE  
ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. HIS CLIENT WOULD NEVER  
ATTEMPT SO FOOLHARDY AN ADVENTURE SIMPLY BECAUSE HE

WOULD BE THE MOST OBVIOUS SUSPECT. FURTHER, CHEIKH TIDIANE SY FULLY REALIZED THE POTENTIAL FOR BLOODY CONFRONTATION WITHIN THE TIDIANE BROTHERHOOD WERE ONE OF ITS LEADERS TO BE KILLED. NIANG ALSO POINTED TO CHEIKH TIDIANE SY'S RESTRAINT IN NOT CALLING ON HIS FOLLOWERS FOR SUPPORT DURING THE RECENT MOVE TO EVICT HIM FROM A HOME HE HAD INHABITED (SEE DAKAR 2017).

15. AT THE SAME TIME, NIANG WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT IN THE LONG TERM THE RIVALS TO BE THE NEXT TIDIANE KHALIFE GENERAL WOULD BE ABLE TO SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES PEACEFULLY. BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A CHANCE FOR THE BROTHERS TO SIT DOWN AND TALK. NIANG SAID THAT BEFORE JANUARY HE HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN TRYING TO BRING THIS ABOUT. NOW, HOWEVER, EMOTIONS WERE TOO UNSETTLED. NIANG PROFFERED THAT THE KHALIFE GENERAL HAD ALSO UNDERCUT HIS OWN AUTHORITY BY FAVORING IN TOO PUBLIC A WAY ABDUL AZIZ, JR. AS HIS LIKELY SUCCESSOR. THE KHALIFE GENERAL'S ABILITY TO STEP IN AND SETTLE DIFFERENCES WAS NOW MUCH DIMINISHED AS A RESULT. PRESUMABLY HIS MUCH WEAKENED PHYSICAL STATE ALSO SERVED TO LESSEN HIS AUTHORITY.

16. COMMENT: THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE JANUARY ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WILL QUIETLY BE PUT AWAY AND THAT THE CASE WILL NEVER COME BEFORE THE COURTS OUT OF CONCERN THAT A TRIAL AND THE ACCUSATIONS THAT WOULD BE AIRED WOULD BE TOO SERIOUS A THREAT TO THE PEACE. PRESIDENT DIOUF, A MEMBER OF THE TIDIANE BROTHERHOOD, IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR THE SUCCESSION STRUGGLE TO GET OUT OF HAND. HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE.

JOHNSON